



Miami-Dade County

Summary Minutes *
Commission on Disability Issues (CODI)
Overtown Transit Village
 701 NW 1st Court, Miami, Florida 33128

	Date:	Wednesday, May 23, 2012
	Time:	1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
	Call to Order Time:	2:05 est.
	Meeting Adjourned:	4:02 est.
	<u>Opening and Attendance:</u> Attendance recorded. Call to Order. Copies of documents were distributed	
	District 1 Commissioner Jordan	John Miller 1 st Vice Chair Present
	District 2 Commissioner Monestime	Jackson David Access Committee Chair Present
	District 3 Commissioner Edmonson	Jose Granda Present
	District 4 Commissioner Heyman	Earl Oaks Employment Committee Chair Present
	District 5 Commissioner Barreiro	Jose (Ernie) Martinez CODI Chairman Present
	District 6 Commissioner Sosa	Pedro Rodriguez Housing Committee Chair Present
	District 7 Commissioner Suarez	Harry Horgan Outreach/Education Chair Present
	District 8 Commissioner Bell	Jesus Garcia Secretary Transportation Committee Chair Present
	District 9 Commissioner Moss	Ronald Fulton 2 nd Vice Chair Present
	District 10 Commissioner Souto	Dr. Sam Kohlenber Membership Committee Chair Present
	District 11 Commissioner Martinez	Denise Valkema Absent
	District 12 Commissioner Diaz	Marilyn Larrieu Housing Committee Chair Present
	District 13 Commission Bovo	Alan Rigerman Present
	Miami-Dade County Staff Present	Dianne Steinberg ISD, Administrative & Business Services Division Recording Secretary Present

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		Heidi Johnson-Wright ISD, ADA Coordinator	Present
I.	Approval of Agenda:	The Chairman made a motion to approval the 5/23/12 Agenda and to include the report from the Housing Committee on the Committee Summary Updates. Motion was made by Alan Rigerman and seconded by Marilyn Larrieu. Motion passed.	
II.	Approval of CODI Minutes:	The Chairman made a motion to have the minutes from the 4/25/12 CODI meeting approved at the next meeting in order to review them. Jackson Davidson seconded the motion. Approval of all draft minutes will be reviewed at the 6/27/12 CODI meeting. CODI Chairman stated for the record that Marilyn Larrieu had an excused absence f from the 4/25/12 CODI meeting.	
III.	Opening Comments:	<i>3 minutes each speaker (Advance Notice Preferred)</i> <i>No public comments at this time.</i> a. Alan Rigerman requested clarification on whether CODI members have the right to contact municipalities and police departments regarding disability issues. The example cited was if a CODI member attended an event at Florida Memorial College and an event planner parked in a disabled spot, can a CODI member call the FMC Security Office or the Miami Gardens Police Department in order to resolve this? In addition if there is no response, does the member have the right to send a letter of complaint? He also asked if CODI could respond to this type of situation by writing such a letter stating that issues should be addressed at the time they occur with details provide. The CODI Chairman, Ernie Martinez advised Mr. Rigerman to forward the issue to the ADA Office Coordinator, Heidi Johnson-Wright for CODI to review. John Miller clarified that this is an issue related to the province of the CODI Board and its mandate regarding what it can and cannot do. b. Ronald Fulton noted that in the past, CODI discussed sending a letter to each municipal police department urging them to enforce accessible parking laws.	
	Open Comments	Special Event Parking for American Airlines Arena Jose Granda voiced a concern about parking for the American Airlines Arena, which came to his attention when he attended a recent Miami Heat game. He said that people were being charged \$20 to park, including people with disabilities. He said that all the regular parking spots were filled. Chairman Martinez inquired if this falls under the City of Miami jurisdiction. Heidi Johnson-Wright said she did not know if this was permissible or not, without further details. She asked Mr. Granda to explain further regarding the type and location of parking, i.e. was it at a lot used for AAA parking only, on-street at meters, off-street in a special event lot, off-street at a metered lot run by Miami Parking Authority, etc. Persons with disabled parking placards can typically park for up to four hours for free at on-street meters. She said it is likely under the City of Miami's jurisdiction, not under the authority of Miami-Dade County. Mr. Granda did not have further details about the type and exact location of the parking. Jesus Garcia noted that this would be an issue only if all the accessible parking areas were taken up for expensive parking, leaving the disabled community with no other accessible parking. Chairman Martinez said this item should be taken up by the CODI Access Committee.	

	<p>New/Old Business</p>	<p>Miami-Dade County, Entitlement Area Consolidated Plan FY 2013 -2017</p> <p>Selena Williams, Acting Division Director in Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD), (Resident Services, Community Planning and Outreach) addressed the CODI regarding the MDC Entitlement Area Consolidated Plan FY 2013 -2017. The Plan includes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Plan and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and is an overview on how the County would propose to expend federal funds over FY 13 -17 with an annual policy passed by the BCC, specific to that year. Ms. Williams stated her unit has conducted four community meetings since November 2012. There have been eight Committee Advisory Committees (CAC) appointed by the BCC, representing Neighborhood Revitalizing Strategies Areas (NRSA), areas of high poverty, and low employment. She advised that this item will be submitted on 6/4/12 and anticipates this item being on the 7/11/12 Economic Development and Social Services (EDSS) Committee agenda.</p> <p>PHCD had not previously presented this issue to CODI. Jose Granda, Earl Oaks, and Jackson David explained to Ms. Williams that each CODI member is appointed by a Miami-Dade County Commissioner. They asked how PHCD would have sufficient knowledge about the housing needs of people with disabilities without first consulting CODI. John Miller explained that CODI looks at disabilities issues in depth, utilizing the Transportation, Access, Housing and Employment sub-committees. Once presented to the Board, CODI votes on the issues, sometimes subsequently notifying the BCC about particularly pressing issues. Because the next CODI Board meeting is 6/27/12. Presenting the Plan to CODI at this late date significantly limits CODI's ability to fulfill its mandate from the BCC, and limits its ability to speak for the disabled and under-privileged members of the community.</p> <p>Rick Glasgow, Manager, PHCD, (Resident Services, Planning and Outreach) stated that PHCD advertised the public meetings regarding the Plan, and placed publications in libraries and churches. An annual action plan is made and specific groups such as CODI can submit an annual request and when funding is available, decisions are made. He stated that the Plan identifies the Disabled Community as having extensive needs to meet basic services to enable them to function with the average population. The plan addresses the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decent affordable accessible housing 2. Housing that can be obtained with the typical SSI Payment (chart that shows the challenge of meeting rent with current SSI Payment) 3. Access to Transportation 4. Well Care Programs 5. Inclusion in the existing Housing Incentive Programs that allows for Density Bonuses for developers that supply low to moderate income housing, disabled housing, housing in the projects <p>The Chairman Martinez stated he would meet with the County Commissioners on this item. Pedro Rodriguez was appointed Chairman of an <i>adhoc</i> committee to review the plan. The first meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, 5/30/12 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at 221 East 2nd Ave. in Hialeah, Florida. CODI's deadline to submit comment for incorporation into the Plan will be 7/10/12.</p>
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Wheelchair Accessible Taxicabs

Joe Mora, Division Director of For-Hire Transportation, (SPEE) explained that his department oversees the taxicab industry for Miami-Dade County and regulates seven different types of for-hire industries, including taxicabs, limousines, and non-emergency vehicles, passenger motor carriers, private school buses and private ambulances. He said the County currently has 2,111 taxicabs, of which 83 are wheelchair accessible. This is 4 percent of the total number of taxis, exceeding the minimum amount of 3 percent required by County ordinance requirement.

Mr. Mora stated a Taxicab Advisory Group (TAG) subcommittee has been created to explore the level of service of the Wheelchair Accessible Taxicab Program, the issue of centralized dispatching system and the inclusion of GPS technology in vehicles. Ms Johnson-Wright is partnering with his office to recruit an Urban Fellow to examine the existing taxicab program and similar programs in other counties and cities, with the goal of making recommendations to improve our current system so people with disabilities can get cabs more readily.

Transportation Committee Chairman Jesus Garcia requested a visual count of the 83 wheelchair accessible taxi cabs to be provided to CODI in order to confirm their presence on the road. Mr. Mora explained that the age of a vehicle dictates how often they must frequent vehicle inspection stations. They are inspected to ensure the vehicles are compliant and to ensure drivers know how to properly use the equipment. If a cab lacks the necessary tie-downs, the driver is forbidden from operating it until it is made compliant.

The ordinance that established the 3 percent quota did not mandate that wheelchair using passengers be afforded priority service. He advised that inspectors will be checking the taxi cab lots at MIA, inspecting for tie-downs. Mr. Mora added that new wheelchair assessable taxicabs must have GPS within 18 months. However, new legislation to accelerate the timeline and that all wheelchair accessible taxicabs be required to have GPS is the goal.

A discussion ensued regarding problems with tax service, including people that are blind being dropped off at unfamiliar or incorrect locations and once dropped off, being unable to identify the cabs or drivers. SPEE is reviewing a device with a Braille component to identify the vehicle. Chairman Martinez spoke about passengers with service animals calling for taxis and not getting picked up from Miami Beach and MIA.

Joe Mora stated the County established two financial incentives for new wheelchair medallion operators. One was a \$10,000 reduction in the \$25,000 medallion fee to help offset the cost of an accessible vehicle. The other incentive was an additional two years that the vehicle could remain on the road. These medallions must forever be linked to a wheelchair accessible taxi.

He also advised that in February, his department conducted an auction for two wheelchair accessible super taxicabs that were sold for over \$300,000 each. Four new unrestricted medallions each went for over \$400,000. Prior to the auction they had in February, standard regular unrestricted taxi medallions were selling for \$175,000-\$200,000. Recently a wheelchair medallion was sold for \$150,000. SPEE will soon be conducting a lottery a total of 10 medallions, six were for U.S. veterans and four went to senior drivers. The medallion fee for each of these licenses will be \$5,000.

		<p>c. Marlins Ball Park</p> <p>Chairman Martinez stated there are three main issues related to Marlins Park that must be resolved: 1) STS pick-up/drop-off location, 2) audio broadcast in the ballpark, and 3) the visibility of captioning at the games.</p> <p>A discussion ensued and it was decided that CODI should hold an Access Committee meeting at the park during part a game, including Claude Delorme.</p>
	Miscellaneous	<p>a. Lighthouse Summer Internship</p> <p>Richard Neabbis and Emily Nosha from the Lighthouse Transition Program announced that they have paid summer internships for youths 14-22 years old, sponsored by the Division of Blind Services. Chairman Martinez said this presents a wonderful opportunity for young people and suggested that Employment Committee Chairman Earl Oaks look into this.</p> <p>b. ADA Celebration</p> <p>Harry Hogan updated the Board on the ADA Celebration taking place on 7/22/12 for a fun day on the bay called "Christmas in Summer" at the Shake-a-Leg Facility. There will be an ADA Anniversary Event on 7/26/12, developed in conjunction with the Offices of Mayor Gimenez and Commissioner Joe Martinez. The BCC will issue a proclamation.</p>
		<p>ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Ernie Martinez (Chair), 2nd by John Miller</p> <p>Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 27, 2012</p> <p>ADA Coordinator, Heidi Johnson-Wright announced that she will be on vacation from 5/25 – 6/11/12.</p>